



Announcement from David

At the beginning of January I wrote to Bishop Nigel McCulloch informing him of my decision to retire on May 31st. Our last weekend will be the 16th & 17th of May. It has not been an easy decision as we have come to love the church in the 18_ years we have been here. I don't think I will find it as hard to lay down my role as Team Rector as leaving so many people who have become like family – that will be a big bereavement but all that is unknown territory ahead. The blessing of having many years in one place is the privilege of investing in the lives of so many families and seeing generations of children born, growing up, going to university and into the world of work and even marrying some of them.

Ministering in a church like St James and Emmanuel we have seen many people come and after a few years move on and I have often spoken of letting people go with blessing. Letting go is one of the lessons I have been learning in recent years given greater focus by my time with the Community of Contemplation and Radical Action led by Father Richard Rohr during my last Sabbatical. I know that God has a plan for the next stage of our lives and yours and that being in the centre of God's will is the place where he will bless us. Claire and I believe that it is right for us to move on to the next stage of our lives for many reasons. We have given what we have to give and I believe that the church will thrive from having a new leader with the energy and vision to lead you forward on the next stage of your journey. In my time we have been blessed with some wonderful staff and that is no less so at the present time. We know the church belongs to God and believe that he has great plans for its future but it is reassuring to know that we leave the church in the capable hands of a great team of clergy and lay people. The church has come through some stretching and painful times over the last few years and I think we are in a phase of catching our breath and renewing our energy. During the interregnum Nick Bundock and Nick McKee will be stretched and the church family will have to recognize that they will have less access to their time. Their task in the next six months to a year that you may be in an interregnum will have to focus on leadership and equipping leaders to do the work of ministry. That will give lay people more space to rise into their gifting whether it is teaching, service, working with children and young people or pastoral ministry.

It has been a joy and privilege, though not without cost to lead this church and our love, respect and admiration for the church family at St James and Emmanuel has grown over the years. I feel that I and other staff have grown as people in this place and amongst its people and I am grateful to you all for that. At times I have been greatly encouraged by seeing what God is doing in the lives of so many people and I have been warmed by the generosity and mercy of many when I have made mistakes. I don't think I have been in another church with such great diversity and although at times that creates tensions I feel there is something very healthy about that and it provides a glimpse of the inclusive nature of God's Kingdom.

We would value your prayers over these last three and a half months as we seek to end well and prepare for what will be a great change for us as a family. We will also be praying for you all as you step forward with confidence in God into his future for you. Until I leave it will be business as usual! A request, please don't ask Claire if she is retiring. She is nearly fourteen years younger than I and that is not on her agenda!

continued overleaf

I would also value your prayers for Rosy Martin and myself as on Wednesday 4th February we flew out from Manchester with a team of ten people led by Ian Parkinson to Kisoro for a fortnight. Rosy will be spending some time with Jenny Green at the Potters Village and joining us as time permits at a conference for clergy, their wives and lay people from 9-13th February. About 150 are expected to come. If you like to cover the trip in prayer there are some yellow information sheets about the itinerary and the conference at the back of both churches.

With our love in Christ,
David & Claire Hughes

David's Retirement Gift

As most of us know, David announced his forthcoming retirement at the services last Sunday. David is now in Africa and so it seems like a good time to begin a collection for him, and of course for Claire (who is not retiring!). David and Claire have poured their hearts and souls into ministry here for more than eighteen years and so I would love us to be able to present them with something that will be of lasting value. Envelopes for a collection gift have been circulated with the newsletter today. These envelopes can be placed in the collection plate or delivered to the Parish Office.

A note for your diaries. David and Claire's last weekend in the parish will be the 16th and 17th May. Please would you keep the evening of the 16th free for a great parish send-off. David will deliver his final sermons to us on the 17th. So please plan to be around that weekend. Many thanks, Nick.

Would you be willing to sign up online to the Downing St Petition to call on United Utilities to review their decision to impose Site Area Charging on churches and places of worship which could result in an increased bill of £1000 per year? Go to <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/ChurchWaterBills>

Mustard Tree - "Faith at work, rebuilding lives"

Our regular collection of food items continues. Contributions can be brought to the Traidcraft table in both churches at the 10.30 service on the **4th Sunday of the month**. Just one item a month from each church family will make a real difference to the help that can be given, so please do support.

Thank you. Chris Clarke 445 1892

Sylvia Hillier will be holding a Pancake Day Coffee Morning

on Shrove Tuesday, 24th February from 10am – 2pm, at her home, 1 Rushton St.

Cost £2

Proceeds to St James Vestry conversion and the Mercy Ships

New 20-30s Small Group

A new small group aimed at 20-30s is starting up based in 99 Mellington Ave.

There will be a social evening for people interested in the group on Tuesday February 24th at 7.30pm and the group will meet on subsequent Tuesdays from 7.30-9.30pm. Please contact Nick & Jo McKee (nickmckee@stjamesandemmauel.org) or Hannah Combe (hannah_combe@hotmail.com) for more information.

The York Nativity Play

There will be 3 performances of this beautiful play (with music) in Emmanuel Church on 14th, 15th & 16th December 2009. Your participation would be welcome.

The people to contact are:

About acting – Michael Rogers

About music – Chris Martin

'behind the scenes' – Ben Jones.

Watch this space for more information.

Marj and Jean are pleased to report that £257.00 in total was raised for Jenny Green's work in Kisoro, Uganda. Thank you to all who supported the Christmas Victorian Tea Shop event in so many different ways

Please Pray for:

- Tony Lola and Mireille Maswa – called to an interview with the Home Office on Tuesday.
- Shirley Doss, recovering from surgery for a fractured hip, following a fall.
- Rayyan Zafar, Chris Pitt, Hayley York, Alan Pugmire's daughter, Val, June Wynter Klempner (Ivy White's daughter) & Anne Reddish (Ernest Camottas daughter)
- Caroline Throup, training for ordination
- The General Synod of the Church of England meeting in London 9-13 February and for Christine Sandiford, attending for the first time as a representative for the Manchester Diocese.
- Sam Elliott, is now home after a 6_ month stay in Alder Hey Hospital. Please continue to pray for his rehabilitation and for Louise & Guy, Rod and Dolly Ashman.
- Jean McFarlane
- Dirk & Sandra van Zuylen,
- The Gaskin family.

Our Mission Links:

- Martin, our mission partner working with Wycliffe Bible Translators.
- Keith and Joyce Wood with OMF in Watford.
- Jenny Green, Joseph & Hannah.
- Ann Lipson ; Ruth and Solomon Nabie in Kenya
- Mags Duggan
- Dirk & Sandra van Zuylen with Navigators U.K
- Howie and Sally Pickering.
- Gemma Smith, now in Kimilili on placement with Icfem.

Cheese and Wine evenings! (and Natural Church Development at St James & Emmanuel)

Most of us take our health very seriously. If we are unfit or poorly we go to the doctors. If we are looking to become healthier we take the steps needed to make that happen, like cycling to work, going on a diet or joining a gym.

The church is also a body and it too can be healthy or unhealthy. An unhealthy church is not generally a nice place to belong and tends to be in decline. Conversely, a healthy church is a great place to belong and is often growing. Fortunately for us some very clever people have worked out (through an awful lot of research) the key factors that make for a healthy church and have devised a cunning way to measure it. It's a bit like a full body health check for churches where instead of measuring cholesterol levels and blood pressure we measure the quality of leadership, worship, small group and personal spirituality etc. When we get the results we can make changes to improve health.

Over the past three years we have completed two such profiles at St James' and one at Emmanuel and have sought to implement changes in light of the results.

In January and February we are extending this process further by completing another two profiles for the 10.30 congregations and a first profile for the 6.15 congregation.

If you have been involved in the past then you will already have been sent a letter (check the back of church for yours). If you haven't been involved in the past and would like to, or if you feel you've been missed off the list (it is possible as it's not easy to correctly identify and write to hundreds of people across three congregations!) then please sign up at the back of church or email the office to say you are coming and which congregation you are representing.

We want to make this profiling as fun as possible so each will take place in the context of a cheese and wine evening and once we've had our fill (and ironically decreased our own personal health) we will all be given a multiple choice questionnaire to complete.

I hope you will consider joining us and the dates are as follows:

Emmanuel 10.30 congregation **Monday 9th February 8-9.30pm in Emmanuel**

Emmanuel 6.15 congregation **Thursday 12th February 8-9.30pm in Emmanuel**

Valentine's Ball



The Youth would like to invite the Church Family to a Valentine's Ball on
Saturday evening, 14th Feb 7.30-10pm
Music provided by Hannah Atkins and the Trinity Soul Band

Tickets on sale next week priced £7 which includes a supper and soft drinks. (adults bring a bottle if you wish)

Proceeds will go to sponsoring a child through Compassion and to the Soul Survivor Summer Conference.

Yoof & Kids

Yoof **Tues 10th** - I Can't Believe It's not Deeper, 8-10pm in Youth Room

Kids **Thurs 12th** - FROG bowling trip, meet TenPin, Parrs
Wood, 6pm (7-11s, bring £6)

Sun 15th - Godly Play - 10.30 in the Didsbury
- All Age Family Worship at Emmanuel, 10.30



Don't forget to book your tickets and choose your outfits for the Valent

More people needed for the **PA rota**
- **for the evening service.** Full training will be given.
Please contact the clergy or the Parish Office.

Congratulations to Pamela and Chris Brown on the safe arrival on 22nd January of their sons Dominic (6lb 4oz) and Nathan (6lb 11oz)

And to Dirk and Sandra van Zuylen on the arrival of their latest grandchild.



Inviting All ladies, Any age, Any size to...

THE BIG CLOTHES SWAP..

Mon 23rd Feb 7pm-10pm
Emmanuel church

Recycle your clothing, Reject consumerism, Revitalize your wardrobe.

Bring your unwanted clothing, accessories and toiletries.. and prepare to swap!

£6 /£5 concessions- (Price includes a cocktail, a new wardrobe and loads of fun)

All proceeds go towards Jo and Jo's kimilili projects.

If you cant make the swap but are clearing out, please drop off items to 3 Sandleigh Ave, M20 3LN

for more info contact Jo Finlay:

joxfinlay@hotmail.com

Stamping your attendance cards (for Wedding, Baptism or School Admission)

The official stamps will be available at the end of the services.
We can only accept an official stamp on your attendance card as confirmation of your attendance.

If you require an attendance card for any of the above please contact the Parish Office.

*The closing date for submissions for the news sheet is noon on the Wednesday before the relevant Sunday.
No personal advertisements are put in the news sheet. You are welcome to advertise on the notice boards*